

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 2853

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 18-29 are allowed. Claims 1, 7, 11, 13-17, and 30-32 stand rejected; claim 12 stands objected to; and claims 2-6 and 8-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, claim 12 has been amended, and claims 1-11, 13-17 and 30-32 have been canceled. This application now includes claims 12 and 18-29.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 18-29.

Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability regarding claim 12.

Applicants have so amended claim 12 to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 7 and the sole intervening claim, claim 11, and accordingly believe claim 12 to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 12 be withdrawn.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-11, 13-17 and 30-32 in order to expedite prosecution and to place the present patent application into condition for allowance. Applicants cancel claims 1-11, 13-17 and 30-32 without prejudice or disclaimer, and hereby expressly reserve the right to pursue claims 1-11, 13-17 and 30-32 in a continuation and/or divisional application.

The cancellation of claims 1-11, 13-17 and 30-32 does not alter the inventorship of the present patent application.

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In consideration of the above, Applicants believe that claims 12 and 18-29 are presently in condition for allowance, and thus respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,

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